

# Purpose

## *Purpose of Plan:*

1. Heighten Awareness
2. Organize Cooperation
3. Prioritize
4. Need for Additional Resources

Noxious weeds permanently degrade agricultural lands and the natural environment. They cause severe production losses, increased control costs, and can decrease value of farm, range, and forestlands. They challenge the ability to produce food and fiber, impact and alter aquatic systems, impede transportation and recreation, affect human and animal health, and threaten native plant communities. Oregon's economic losses from noxious weeds are more than \$83 million annually.

The intent of this plan is to provide a framework and overall direction for coordination of noxious weed management to protect and restore Oregon's natural resources. This plan presents the magnitude of the problem, highlights the importance of current work, and makes strategic recommendations for building strong, effective, coordinated programs for the future.

The purpose of this plan is to heighten awareness among Oregon's citizens, the legislature, local governments, tribal governments, conservation organizations, and land managers of the impact of noxious weeds and the need for effective noxious weed management; to further organize cooperation; to prioritize noxious weed projects; and demonstrate the necessity for additional resources to maintain and further advance noxious weed management.



*Spotted knapweed spread along river and road corridor.*